

In the currently outstanding non-final Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Identified the following species of the present invention that he alleges to be patentably distinct from one another:

Species A – Figures 1-16,

Species B – Figures 17-21.

2. Required the Applicants to elect one of the foregoing species under 35 USC 121 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted in the event that no generic claim is found to be allowable.
3. Required Applicant to list all of the pending claims that he deems to be readable on the elected species;
4. Indicated that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims directed to additional species, which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowed generic claim.
5. Reminded Applicants that any claims added to this application must specify the species to which they are directed.

In response to the currently outstanding requirement for restriction, **Applicant hereby elects Species A, Claims 1-7 and 17, without traverse** for further prosecution in the merits in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that this communication is fully responsive to the currently outstanding Official Action in the above-identified application. Early substantive consideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the Office Action did not note or acknowledge Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement of 31 December 2003, or provide the Applicant with a signed, dated and initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therewith in confirmation of the consideration of the art listed therein. Such action is respectfully requested.

It is also noted that the Office action did not acknowledge Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), and Applicant's submission of the required certified copies of the Priority Documents, both of 29 January 2004. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Date: October 6, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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